

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Children and Animals Need Protection Against Rabies

Two children have died of rabies in California during the past two weeks. Both of these deaths were unnecessary, as rabies is a preventable disease. Human deaths from rabies are always heart-rending to physicians, nurses and health officers, for the reason that the disease is 100 per cent fatal, and also because of the tragic symptoms that develop in the course of the disease. For a human being to contract rabies is to receive a death sentence—there is no possible hope for recovery. The Pasteur treatment, which is given to individuals who may have been bitten by rabid animals is preventive only.

Many valuable dogs lose their lives each year from rabies. There is no way of knowing how many such animals have sacrificed their lives to this preventable disease, but the number is very large. There is a close bond of attachment between a man and his dog and between a child and his dog. The well-cared-for dog should not be subjected to the hazard of contracting rabies, which is spread, largely, by homeless animals. The menace to the lives of both dogs and children may be removed through the control of homeless animals. When rabies is rampant, special facilities for the protection of both children and dogs should be provided. Not to enforce measures for the protection of both constitutes cruelty and indifference, not only toward children but also toward man's best animal friend.

Since 1920, 5053 cases of rabies have occurred in

eight counties which constitute southern California. This is more than 83 per cent of all cases that have been reported in the State during the period 1920 to 1930. The segregation of cases of rabies in animals, by counties during this period is as follows:

Counties	Cases (1902-1930, inc.)
Santa Barbara.....	18
Ventura	28
Los Angeles	4323
Orange	118
San Diego	279
Imperial	62
Riverside	83
San Bernardino	142
	5053

Since 1920, forty-two human beings have died of rabies in California. In face of the fact that all of these cases were preventable, their occurrence constitutes a serious indictment of the people of California communities who will not permit the institution and maintenance of proper control measures. Even though the enforcement of such measures is as much in the interest of dogs as it is in the interest of human beings, through some misguided idea efforts for the control of the disease are often denied. It is a tragedy more cruel than anything that could possibly be conceived in any drama.

A NEW DYSENTERY-LIKE DISEASE IN THE NORTHWEST MOUNTAINOUS SECTION OF THE UNITED STATES

According to a report recently issued by the United States Public Health Service, in various localities of the northwest mountainous section of the United States a mild dysentery-like epidemic has occurred from year to year. The infection has been strictly seasonal, practically all of the cases occurring during the hottest and driest months of the year—July and August. For the past few years it has been more noticeable in certain of the national parks, where large numbers of tourists assemble during the summer months, but the condition has never been limited to these areas.

The cardinal symptoms of this disease are nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, and the most striking characteristic is the widespread occurrence of the condition. As far as can be ascertained, at least half of the persons in some of the areas where the outbreak occurred were affected. Many patients did not take to their beds at all. Frontal headache was a rather common complaint. There were no nosebleeds or sore throats among any of the cases examined. In none of these cases did the physical signs or examination reveal anything definite. Many of them showed nothing at all unusual. Others had a definitely greenish pallor and complained of extreme weakness. There were no particular changes in the blood, except that in the great majority of cases there was a definite increase in the number of white cells. Throat cultures were taken from a number of cases without yielding any organisms that could be suspected of being the cause of the malady.

Many people attribute the sickness to the pine pollen. During the dry season the forest rangers state that the pine pollen is sometimes so thick that large clouds of it resemble the smoke of a forest fire. Since the height of the epidemic usually comes after August 1st, it is unlikely that the pollen was the cause of the affection. Further more, some of the pollen was obtained and a small quantity ingested by several persons who had not suffered from the condition, and no ill effects followed.

This unknown condition, therefore, more closely resembles symptomatically the food infections caused by the paratyphoid-enteritidis group of organisms. Yet, food infections can nearly always be traced to food spoilage, or some one item of food, usually meat or meat salads, which has been ingested by all patients. The onsets of all such cases, therefore, occur within 12 to 24 hours of one another. This is not the case in the epidemics under discussion.

Certain epidemiological characteristics of the disease resemble bacillary dysentery, but the symptoms and duration of the illness simulate certain conditions of food infections. Bacteriological studies of the disease so far have been negative. It is believed that a great amount of intensive investigation will be necessary before this disease is traced to its source.

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION MEETS IN SACRAMENTO

The Northern California Public Health Association held its regular spring meeting in Sacramento, May 16th. During the afternoon, members of the association were guests of Dr. H. F. True, City Health Officer, who hold open house at the offices of the health department and at the new health center at Fifth and I Streets. Dedicatory exercises were held at the health center, at which Mayor C. H. S. Bidwell presided. The city manager, James S. Dean, has been largely instrumental in the consolidation of all clinics in the new building. Much credit is also due the city manager for his understanding and interest in the development of public health activities in Sacramento.

At 6.30 p.m. the annual dinner of the association was held at the Travelers Hotel. The program, which followed the dinner, consisted of addresses pertaining to the health of tourists. Dr. A. C. Reed, Professor of Tropical Medicine, University of California Medical School, gave a paper on "Health Problems of Interest to Travelers Journeying in the Orient." Dr. Ralph Reynolds, Staff Member of Stanford University Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital, presented "Precautions the European Traveler Should Observe in Matters of Health," and Dr. Herbert F. True, Health Officer of Sacramento, discussed "Health Problems in the Pacific Slope Area During the Summer Migration Period."

The officers of the Northern California Public Health Association are: President, Dr. Guy S. Millberry; Vice Presidents, Dr. Thomas A. Storey and Dr. W. H. Kellogg; Treasurer, Mary E. Davis, R. N., and Secretary, Dr. Walter H. Brown.

With the almost universal use of milk as a food, especially for those of growing age, it is of utmost importance that the milk supply of every community be regulated. A milk ordinance instructs the public as to what to expect of the milk bought, and instructs the producer on standards of quality and details methods of reaching them. Only dishonest dealers planning to prey upon the ignorance and indifference of consumers find a milk ordinance a disadvantage.—*The Municipality.*

NURSES TO MEET IN YOSEMITE

The California State Nurses' Association will hold its regular annual convention in Yosemite, June 1st to 5th. Among the well-known nurses who will participate in the program are: Miss Elnora Thomson, President of the American Nurses' Association; Mary M. Roberts, Editor of the "American Journal of Nursing"; Janet M. Geister, General Director of the American Nurses' Association; Alma Scott, Assistant to the General Director; Dr. May Ayres Burgess, Director, Committee on Grading of School of Nursing; Nina D. Gage, Executive Secretary of the National League of Nursing Education.

Among those who will preside at the various sessions of the convention are: D. Dean Urch, President of the California State Nurses' Association; Anna C. Jammé, Director at Headquarters of the Association; Anne Donohue Nino, Chairman of the Private Duty Section of the Association; Rena Haig, Assistant National Director of Nursing Service; Margaret Krauthaus, Secretary, Private Duty Section; Martha Greninger, Red Cross Nursing Service; Agnes G. Talcott, Los Angeles City Health Department; Winona Darrah, President, California Student Nurses' Association; Ethel Fisher, Advisory Public Health Nurse, State Department of Public Health; Edith Taylor, Vice Chairman, Private Duty Section; Helen D. Halvorson, President of the California Organization for Public Health Nursing; and Mrs. Tophi G. Ryan, Private Duty Section.

MISS HANSEN LEAVES DEPARTMENT

Miss Helen F. Hansen, who has been inspector of schools of nursing under the Bureau of Registration of Nurses of the State Department of Public Health, has resigned her position in order to become Assistant Superintendent of the School for Nurses at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. Miss Hansen is a graduate of the school with which she is to become affiliated as assistant superintendent.

It is generally accepted that tuberculosis and cancer cannot be conquered without early diagnosis. Thus, the two great public health movements against these diseases are primarily health examination campaigns. Likewise, attention is increasingly drawn to the opinion that early diagnosis is the missing essential in the fight against nephritis, heart disease, diabetes, and the other diseases of adult life. The health examination, therefore, holds a position of great promise and responsibility in the affairs of men and medicine.—*N. Y. Health News.*

WESTERN CONFERENCE OF A. N. A. TO BE HELD IN YOSEMITE

The Western States Conference of the American Nurses' Association will be held in Yosemite June 5th, 6th and 7th, immediately following the convention of the California State Nurses' Association. The States entering into this regional conference are: Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming, Arizona, Idaho, California, Colorado, Utah, and Washington.

The work of the conference will be divided into four divisions—that of the executive secretaries, boards of examiners, education in nursing and distribution of nursing service.

Among the nationally-known nurses who will attend are: Miss Elnora Thomson, president of the American Nurses' Association; Miss Janet M. Geister, Headquarters Director; Miss Mary M. Roberts, Editor of the American Journal of Nursing; Mrs. Alma Scott, Assistant Headquarters Director; Miss Nina D. Gage, Executive Secretary, National League of Nursing Education; Mrs. Elizabeth S. Soule, Director of the Department of Nursing Education, University of Washington.

MORBIDITY *

Diphtheria.

83 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Emeryville 1, Fresno County 6, Fresno 15, Imperial County 1, Imperial 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 4, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 28, Vernon 1, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Gardena 1, Salinas 1, Santa Ana 1, Corona 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Francisco 5, Tracy 2, Fairfield 1, Ventura County 2.

Scarlet Fever.

151 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Berkeley 1, Oakland 9, San Leandro 1, Butte County 1, Fresno County 12, Fresno 1, Brawley 1, Los Angeles County 10, Covina 1, Glendale 1, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 45, San Gabriel 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 6, Monterey County 2, Anaheim 1, Huntington Beach 4, La Habra 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 2, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 8, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 14, Watsonville 2, Yolo County 1.

Measles.

1174 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 16, Alameda 9, Albany 4, Berkeley 98, Hayward 16, Oakland 80, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 4, Pinole 1, Pittsburg 2, Fresno County 60, Fresno 38, Sanger 1, Imperial County 1, Imperial 2, Kern County 12, Bakersfield 2, Hanford 6, Los Angeles County 51, Alhambra 2, Beverly Hills 5, Burbank 3, Compton 2, Glendale 18, Huntington Park 6, Long Beach 10, Los Angeles 134, San Fernando 2, Santa Monica 6, Lynwood 2, South Gate 1, Signal Hill 1, Bell 4, Madera County 6, Madera 2, Merced County 6, Gustine 3, Merced 1, Monterey County 4, Monterey 13, Pacific Grove 3, Salinas 21, Soledad 3, Napa County 1, Orange County 9, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 4, Orange 14, Santa Ana 10, Placentia 4, Tustin 1, Riverside County 8, Riverside 7, Sacramento 66, Redlands 2, San Diego

* From reports received on May 18th and 19th for week ending May 16th.

County 29, Chula Vista 7, La Mesa 1, National City 19, San Diego 86, San Francisco 72, Stockton 11, San Luis Obispo County 11, Paso Robles 3, Burlingame 16, Hillsboro 1, San Mateo 12, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Maria 9, Santa Clara County 4, Gilroy 9, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz 2, Stanislaus County 6, Modesto 3, Corning 7, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 30, Oxnard 2, Ojai 1, Yolo County 30.

Smallpox.

27 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Imperial County 13, Los Angeles County 3, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 3, Salinas 3, Porterville 2, Yolo County 2.

Typhoid Fever.

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Imperial County 2, Inglewood 1, Sierra Madre 1, Merced County 1, Orange County 1, Sacramento County 1.

Whooping Cough.

275 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda 4, Albany 8, Berkeley 18, Oakland 15, San Leandro 2, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 10, Pinole 15, Fresno 2, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 13, Alhambra 4, Glendale 4, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 25, Santa Monica 5, Whittier 1, Lynwood 2, Monterey Park 3, Bell 2, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Tustin 1, Riverside County 6, Sacramento 21, San Diego County 1, San Diego 12, San Francisco 29, San Joaquin County 8, Lodi 5, Stockton 15, Tracy 4, San Luis Obispo County 7, Burlingame 2, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 2, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 5, Sonoma County 3.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

7 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Contra Costa County 1, Imperial County 1, Long Beach 1, Alturas 1, Santa Ana 1, Napa County 1.

Leprosy.

El Centro reported one case of leprosy.

Poliomyelitis.

4 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Burbank 1, Placer County 2, San Francisco 1.

Botulism.

Los Angeles reported three cases of botulism.

Food Poisoning.

Los Angeles reported seven cases of food poisoning.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Oakland 1, Vallejo 1.

Undulant Fever.

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Coccidioidal Granuloma.

Kern County reported one case of coccidioidal granuloma.

Septic Sore Throat.

Glendale reported two cases of septic sore throat.

Rabies (Human).

Los Angeles reported one case of human rabies.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1931				1930			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 16 received by May 19	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 17 received by May 20
	April 25	May 2	May 9		April 26	May 3	May 10	
Botulism	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	511	574	427	493	516	474	349	372
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Diphtheria	60	82	92	83	52	47	58	45
Dysentery (Amoebic)	2	1	0	7	3	6	1	0
Dysentery (Bacillary)	4	7	4	4	4	5	1	2
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	1	2	1	2	2	4	0	0
Erysipelas	18	44	18	18	21	7	13	17
Food Poisoning	11	0	0	7	3	21	0	4
German Measles	49	18	18	6	24	32	14	13
Gonococcus Infection	105	151	126	144	120	85	117	124
Hookworm	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Influenza	277	88	57	53	22	18	22	30
Jaundice (Epidemic)	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Leprosy	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
Measles	1,579	1,393	1,371	1,174	2,614	2,254	2,214	2,033
Meningitis (Epidemic)	7	11	6	7	8	7	2	5
Mumps	359	274	319	287	762	816	744	645
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pellagra	2	3	1	7	3	2	2	5
Pneumonia (Lobar)	34	104	54	38	54	127	50	46
Poliomyelitis	6	4	1	4	3	6	13	14
Rabies (Human)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rabies (Animal)	17	19	24	18	20	24	11	16
Rocky Mt. Spotted Fever	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Scarlet Fever	164	161	162	151	156	143	134	142
Smallpox	55	45	31	27	98	64	68	47
Syphilis	149	217	191	172	144	137	134	114
Tetanus	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Trachoma	1	7	4	3	2	1	2	4
Trichinosis	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	0
Tuberculosis	202	257	229	185	188	270	236	189
Typhoid Fever	11	16	9	8	12	18	11	6
Undulant Fever	2	0	0	2	2	2	3	0
Whooping Cough	406	327	316	275	283	286	298	252
Septic Sore Throat	9	1	6	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	4,044	3,808	3,468	3,184	5,119	4,870	4,503	4,127



Rabies is a serious problem in California. Two children died last week of this preventable disease. It is important that every community provide adequate safeguards against rabies.

